

Art Matters

Local-to-global art ecosystems in our own backyards



By Janet Sellers
All ages can join the fun in historic downtown Monument at the year's first Art Hop on May 19, from 5 to 8 p.m. It's a way to meet and greet the artists and visit art places in town. Our art venues include our public art park, the Santa Fe Trail art walk, galleries, and the ever-increasing fun of pop-up art fairs.
Besides our tradition of physical art to have and to hold, a new dimension of art to collect is settling in from hype to standard practice, and the ripple effect is extraordinary news for artists, galleries, collectors, and the multi-billion-dollar secondary art market sales. This development will protect the art ecosystem at each step in the process of creativity and imagination for artists all the way to future acquisitions of the art. Heretofore, an artist, gallery, or collector didn't see realized profit after a sale.
I was recently on a roundtable discussion with Christina Steinbrecher-Pfandt, one of the authors of the recent <https://www.blockchain.art/> white paper on the blockchain.art site. The white paper explains, "The art world is a global ecosystem of networked actors—artists,

galleries, collectors, auction houses, museum professionals, etc.—and an international marketplace that achieved \$67.4 billion in revenue in 2018. Art is marketed through multichannel efforts that include traditional exhibitions, pop-up art fairs, auctions, both in-person and online sales, and strategic partnerships. However, since the COVID-19 pandemic began in early 2020, the art world's priorities have shifted dramatically. Now, everything is online—an industry-wide digitization is underway and moving fast."
Businesses worldwide are embracing this technology for many safety and lucrative reasons. To clarify, NFT (Non-Fungible Token) art is essentially a blockchain for art, and blockchain is defined, for example, by IBM as "a shared, immutable ledger that facilitates the process of recording transactions and tracking assets in a business network. An asset can be tangible (a house, car, cash, land) or intangible (intellectual property, patents, copyrights, branding)."
The NFT million-dollar explosion we've had of late (see my column from May 2021) is settling down now, and one of the optimal outcomes looks to be the

ability to have a certificate of authenticity type of blockchain certificate that will allow artists to create a certificate and have the artwork authenticated as a physical artwork using crypto technology. The blockchain can help differentiate the artwork from forgery and verify the ownership of an artwork. The benefits for artists, collectors, and galleries can be enormous, ongoing, and lucrative.
Janet Sellers is an artist, writer, speaker, and educator. She exhibits her artworks in cities and museums in Colorado and other places around the world. She can be reached at JanetSellers@ocn.me.
Right: A whimsical sculpture that appears abstract from many angles and spells out "ART" when you look at it just right from Second Street in Monument, at the Bella Art and Frame shop. Our seasonal art activities launch soon at our May 19 Art Hop, as well as a number of other arts events and public art calls for artists. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*



Snapshots of Our Community

Looking south from Higby Road



Above: March 31. This is a water line being laid under what will become a section of Harness Road, in Jackson Creek North Filing Nos. 3-6, between Higby Road and Leather Chaps Drive. The final plat for JCN was approved unanimously by the Monument Board of Trustees on June 7, 2021. The 165 acres will include 378 single-family detached lots that range in size from 7,150 square feet to 29,215 square feet. A 10.2-acre park and 34 acres of open space will be included. Zoning changed from Regency Park Residential District—Estate, which allowed two dwelling units per acre, to Planned Residential Development District—Single Family, allowing four dwelling units per acre. See www.ocn.me/v21n7.htm#mbot0607. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

Wildfire Preparedness Day, Apr. 2



Above: The Palmer Ridge Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Club and event speakers pose in front of the bear statue at the end of the Wildfire Preparedness Day on April 2. The day's events, held at Palmer Ridge High School, featured informational booths and speakers including: personal preparedness—Pikes Peak Regional Emergency Management; know about evacuation—El Paso County Sheriff's Office; home and property risks—Colorado State Forest Service; local wildfire concerns—Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District. *Photo by Charles Gregory. Caption by Megan King.*

Spring seed giveaway, Apr. 2



Above: Representatives of the Tri-Lakes Lions Club and Tri-Lakes Cares were at the Community Garden at Lavelett Park the morning of April 2, giving away seeds to plant for spring blooms. With temperatures in the 20s and 30s, everyone there was ready for warmer weather. The local Lions Club, which focuses on community and service, has been serving northern El Paso County communities including Monument and Palmer Lake. For more information regarding the Tri-Lakes Lions Club and other community projects and events, go to <https://trilakeslionsclub.org>. *Photo by Marlene Brown.*

Three become Eagle Scouts, Apr. 9



Above: Three young men became Eagle Scouts last month. From left are Alec Falk, Blake Marchetti, and Andrew Bonneau, who received their awards at a special Court of Honor ceremony on April 9. They're members of Boy Scouts of America Troop 6 of Monument. *Photo by Karl Falk.*